

May 16, 1963

Public Records Office  
Chancery Lane  
London W.C. 2, England

Attention: Secretary

Gentlemen:

You were kind enough to give me sufficient detail with respect to the 20 shillings Virginia currency notes so that I do not require photographs. I wanted to let you know in view of your letter of 10 April, 1963. I have, however, a new request relating to another matter.

In The Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series (1574-1660), pages 285 and 290, there is a reference to Lord Maltravers obtaining a license in 1636-8 to stamp farthings for export (Vol. IX, Item 132 and Vol. X, Part of Item 10).

I am particularly interested in whatever license Lord Maltravers received to stamp farthings and utter the same in all of His Majesty's Plantations, except Maryland. Would you be kind enough to see if you can locate this document or documents.

There are, in addition, references in The Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, on pages 238 and 266, one of them apparently being a letter from Sir John Harvey, Governor of Virginia, to Sir Francis Windebank, dated June 26, 1936.

Would you be kind enough to examine these documents and send me the cost of obtaining a photocopy of any of them which relate to the proposed circulation of such coin in America.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri  
U.S.A.

EPN/atb

*Henry Frederic Howard, Lord Maltravers*



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ERIC P. NEWMAN  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri  
U.S.A.

EPN/ath



22 May 1963

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your further letter of May 16.

The references to the licence to Lord Maltravers to stamp farthing tokens (Cal. S.P. Colonial, 1574-1660 pp. 285 and 290), are as follows:

- ~~1. p. 285. C.O.1/9, No. 132~~
- ~~2. p. 290. S.P.38/18, 16 Feb. 1638/9~~

10 sh  
5 sh

The references to the other documents are as follows:

- ~~3. p. 238. C.O.1/9, No. 17~~
4. p. 266. It is not clear in which document on this page you are interested, but if it is the letter from Harvey to Windebank it is C.O. 1/9, No. 90.

5 sh

The cost of negative photostats of the above documents is as follows (positive photostats are double the price):

1.....	10s. 0d.
2.....	5s. 0d.
3.....	5s. 0d.
4.....	5s. 0d.

In addition there will be a charge of 3s. 0d. for postage and packing. An order would be put in hand on receipt of the appropriate remittance by cheque drawn on an English account or by International Money Order made payable to Public Record Office.

It is regretted that in the limited time available for answering postal enquiries it is not possible to make continual protracted searches into the documents in which enquirers are interested. If you are not able to arrange privately for some one to identify or summarise documents we could supply you at your request with the name of a professional Record Agent who would be willing to undertake the work on your behalf.

Yours faithfully,

*D. W. S. H. A. 1*

for Secretary.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,  
400 Washington Avenue,  
ST. LOUIS 2,  
Missouri,  
U.S.A.

DHG/MR/DRM



June 11, 1963

The Secretary  
Public Records Office  
Chancery Lane  
London, W. C. 2, England

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your letter to me dated May 22, 1963  
I would appreciate it if you would send me the following  
items:

C.O. 1/9, No. 132                      10 sh.

S.P. 38/18, 16 Feb. 1638/9            5 sh.

C.O. 1/9, No. 17                      5 sh.

Their cost aggregates 20 shillings which, with the post-  
age and packing charge of 3 shillings is 23 shillings.  
This amount will be sent to you by Spink & Son, Ltd.

I sincerely appreciate your helpfulness in searching  
out the items which I write for and, in the future,  
I will see to it that the limited time available in  
your office is not burdened by any time consuming  
matters.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis 2, Missouri  
U.S.A.

EPN/atb



1638 A license to Henry Lord Maltravers  
his executors ~~and~~ administrators for 21 years  
to stamp farthing tokens of copper for the foreign  
plantations a distinction of brass or otherwise  
to be made for England, Ireland and Wales  
the transportation of gold and silver ~~to the~~  
plantations being prohibited and coin found  
necessary to prevent them from being <sup>totally</sup> driven to  
truck with commodities. Resumption of the  
annual rent of 40 shillings to the King.

Calendar of State Papers, 285



S.P. 38/18

16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1638

A license to the Lord Matrauers and  
his assignees for 21 years to stamp farthing  
tokens with a distinction from those  
that are used in England and Ireland and that  
he may utter the same in all ~~the~~ his Ma<sup>ty</sup>es forraigne  
Plantacions (except Marie Land) with ~~intibition~~  
intibicion to all others to utter the like or any other  
base coyne these upon paine of seizure  
of the same, the ~~one~~ <sup>maytie</sup> ~~to his Ma<sup>ty</sup>~~  
tho~~ther~~ to the Lord Matrauers, these  
is reserved to his Ma<sup>ty</sup> X<sup>th</sup> p. ann.  
His ~~Lordship~~ hath power to transport  
these tokens custom free, his Ma<sup>ty</sup>  
pleasure signified. Subscribed Ad ??

Edw Norgate



Jan 28, 1635-6

Whereas by our letters pattennt bearing date the  
 xxiii<sup>th</sup> day of January in the eleventh yeare  
 of our Raygne Wee did give power unto Henry  
 Lord Matoravers and ffancis Crane during  
 the Terme of One and Twenty years to stamp  
 ffarthing Tokens of Copper with a <sup>difference</sup> ~~difference~~ & less  
 portion of brasse and to utter dispose and issue  
 them within our kingdomes of England, Ireland  
 & Wales And whereas the transportation of Gould  
 and Silver out of the kingdome is verry hurtful and  
 Prejudiciall and by all meanes to be avoyded  
 And yett mee our Oblig upon our  
 forrayne plantatons in Virginea, New England,  
 Bermudas and other places Doe finde it necessary  
 that they should bee supplied with some such  
 Coyne as might be the measure of buyeing and  
 selling whereby they might not totally be driven  
 to trucke one comoditie for an other within  
 those plantatons, And ~~if~~ the aforementioned Leters  
 patent will not warrant the stamping and issuing  
 of any farthinge tokens within the ~~same~~ said  
 plantatons or any of them, wherefore wee ~~would~~  
 mindeing the restraint of transportation of Gould  
 & Silver into those forrayne plantatons and the  
 enabling of the Said Henry Lord ~~that~~ Matoravers  
 his Executors ~~and~~ and Administrators to stamp  
 farthing tokens differeing from the farthing  
 tokens stamped in England whereby to make  
 distinction of them, And to utter dispose and issue  
 them in (or to be transported into) our sayd severall  
 plantacons Do require you to draw up a booke  
 readie for our signature giving power unto  
 the Sayd Henry Lord Matoravers his Executors and  
 Administrators During the Terme of One and  
 Twenty years to Stamp farthinge tokens of copper  
 with difference & distinction of brasse as aforesaid or otherwise



in England Ireland and Wales or in any the  
severall plantacons & with such stamp or  
stamps as the sayd Henry Lord Matravens  
shall direct, and to utter or dispose and issue  
them in the sayd severall plantacons or some of  
them or to be transported and carryed unto the  
sayd severall plantacons tendering unto us  
~~the~~ yearly the Annuall rent of fforty  
shillings without any other further ~~prossure~~  
accompt to be yeilded and rendered unto us  
for the same with such beneficall Clauses  
and promises to be inserted for the benefitt  
and avayle of the sayd Henry Lord Matravens  
as he shall desire and you shall them to fitting  
given at



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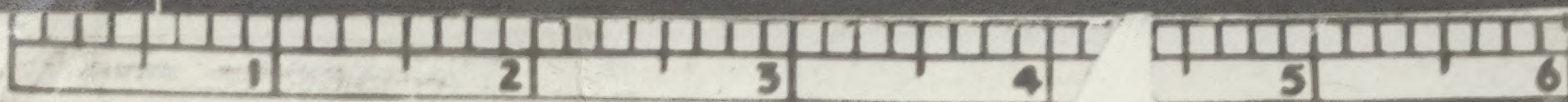
3

COPY NO.

Reference:

S/N 932

C.O. 1/9



808

ffortye shillings w<sup>th</sup>out any other furt<sup>r</sup> or arrount to be  
 y<sup>e</sup> said and p<sup>r</sup>ovided unto be for the same w<sup>th</sup> sub<sup>st</sup>antial  
 Clauses and provisions to be inserted for the benefit and  
 avails of the said Henry Lord Chancery as he shall  
 desire and you shall g<sup>ve</sup> fitting. Given at



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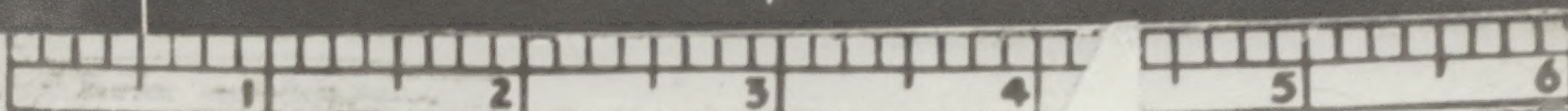
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COPY NO.

Reference:

S/N 932

C.O. 1/9



20 Jan. 1635/6

06.26 June 1635

Whereas by our letters patente bearing date the xxviii<sup>th</sup> day of January in the x<sup>th</sup> year of our Sayns Majtie did give power unto Henry Lord Maitland and Sir Francis Drake during the term of ten and twenty years to stamp forth the Colonies of Copper, and to utter, dispose and issue from within our Kingdoms of England Ireland Wales And towns and to transport out of Gould and Silver out of our Kingdoms in every full and priviledge, and by all means to be avoyded. And yet our saying our self upon our forayns plantations in Virginia, New England, Bermudas and other places, we finde it necessary that they should be supplied with some such things as might be to measure of buying and selling wares by they might not totally be drawn to trade out Commodities for an other within our plantations. And our abovesaid letters patente will not warrant us stamping and issuing of any sort of money within our said plantations or any of them, wherefore we mindinge our restraint of Transportation of Gould & Silver into our forayns plantations, and enabling of our said Henry Lord Maitland his exors and Administrators to stamp forth money differing from our saying money stamped in England whereby to make a distinction of them, And to utter dispose and issue from (or to be transported into) our said forayns plantations, Do require you to draw up a booke ready for our signatur, giving power unto our said Henry Lord Maitland his exors and Administrators during the term of ten and twenty years to stamp forth money of Copper, in England Ireland and Wales or in any of our forayns plantations with such stamp or stamps as our said Henry Lord Maitland shall direct, and to utter dispose and issue from in our said forayns plantations, or some of them or to be transported, and carryed unto our said forayns plantations, bearing unto us yearly the Annually rent of

308

44

132

132

Shorty



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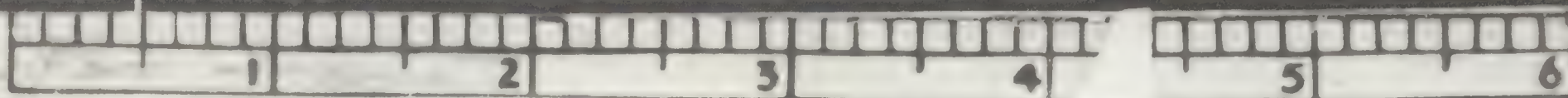
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COPY NO.

Reference

S/N 933

S.P. 38/18



16<sup>th</sup> Feb 1838

Despatches.



A grant of the dignity & degree of a Baronett of England to Sir Edward Dering Knight for his life, and after to his issue by his sons and his heirs male of his body, and for default of such issue to Francis Dering another of his sons & his heirs male of his body: And is upon forwarding of the said dignity by Sir Edward Dering, who notwithstanding is to have place and precedence according to his Majesty's former grant to him of the said dignity. By warrant under the Great Seal signed Marshall Subsd by Mr Attorney General and by Mr Secretary of State.

Edw. Norgate

Assented to the Lord Maitland and his assigns for 21 years to stand for the same, to be a distinction from those that are used in England and Ireland, and that he may better the same in all his Majesty's former plantations (except New Land) with inhibition to all others to better the same, or any other base upon the pain of forfeiture of the same, the said warrant to his Majesty's Secretary to the Lord Maitland, that it is referred to his Majesty's Secretary, who hath power to transport the said Dering's customs free. By his Majesty's pleasure signified by Subscribed, and not free.

Edw. Norgate



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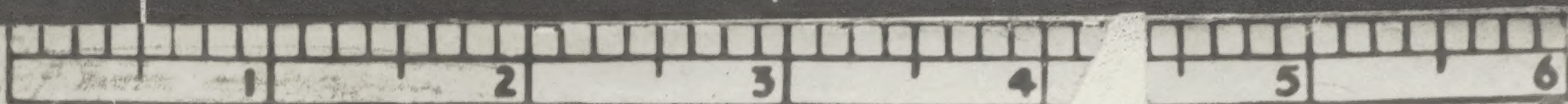
1

COPY NO.

Reference:—

S/N 932

C.O. 1/9



40

Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>

I beseech you pardon me that I take the boldness thus often to trouble you in the behalf of Virginia; Your Honor knows that trade and commerce is of no small importance to enrich a Country, and that the means of exchange is a very principall part of trade, w<sup>ch</sup> Virginia wants, there being in the country, little or no money; whereby most men are utterly disabled of means to supply their ordinary necessities, when they have occasion to goe from their owne houses; Also workmen and laborers are discouraged, and refuse to followe their vocations in regard that when they have done their worke there is no means to paye them untill the crop of Tobacco be ready, and they want wherof to live in the meane tyme; And oftentimes the payes dwelle so farre a funder, that a small debt is not worthe the charge of fetching it, when the crop comes: All w<sup>ch</sup> and many more incomodities the want of money brings to that Country; therefore my humble suit unto Your Honor is that you will be pleased to move His Ma<sup>ty</sup> that some further tokens may be sent thither, and made current there, w<sup>ch</sup> I hope will give a beginning toward the redress of the inconveniences before mentioned; So I humbly kiss your hands and rest

London 26 June 1636 Your Honors affectionate servant  
to be commanded

John Harbey.



## APPENDIX 10

### GEORGE III

- (a) 'A Proclamation. For giving Currency to a new Coinage of Copper Money of One Penny and Two Penny Pieces.' [*London Gazette*, No. 14035, p. 759, 8-12 August 1797]

'Whereas in consequence of the unanimous Address of Our Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, praying that We would be graciously pleased to give Directions that Measures might be taken for an immediate Supply of such Copper Coinage as might be best adapted to the Payment of the Laborious Poor in the present Exigency; We have thought fit to order, that certain Pieces of Copper should be coined, which should go and pass for One Penny and Two Pennies, and that each of such pieces of One Penny should weigh One Ounce Avoirdupois, and that each such Two Penny Pieces should weigh Two Ounces Avoirdupois; the intrinsic Value of such Pieces of One Penny and Two Pennies, Workmanship included, corresponding as nearly as possible with the nominal Value of the same respectively.

'Provided that no Person shall be obliged to take more of such Copper Money, in any one Payment, than shall be of the Value of One Shilling.'

[Proclamation dated—'at Our Court of St. James's, July 26. 1797.']

- (b) Newspaper report of a case of illegal trading with counterfeit copper—13 May 1800

#### 'Base Copper Coin

'In consequence of the repeated advertisements that have lately appeared from a person who called himself Thomas Stridwick, a linen-draper and hosier, residing in Little St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials, offering to take counterfeit halfpence and farthings in payment for the whole amount of any quantity of goods purchased at his shop, and which it was proved he took for only half their original value, a warrant was issued by Mr. Ford for the apprehension of him and his shopman, John Crouch, who were immediately brought to the Office for examination, when it appeared from the testimony of two persons, who were obliged to be admitted as evidence for the Crown, as by uttering the base coin for less than its nominal value, they would otherwise be considered as particeps Criminis, that on going on Monday evening to purchase a pair of worsted stockings at the prisoner Stridwick's shop, he told them the terms on which he dealt, when paid in bad halfpence and farthings, namely, that he must receive two bad halfpence instead of one good, for every article so sold; that the Witness gave him 120 bad halfpence instead of any other good money, to the amount of half-a-crown, in payment for a pair of worsted stockings, which did not seem to be worth eighteen-pence. The prisoner Crouch being also proved to be active in the sale of the said stockings, was included in the charge. The defence set up by Stridwick was, that all the base halfpence and farthings so taken, he sold by weight to the Copper Company, to be melted down. A very large quantity of bad halfpence and farthings were found in his house, which were ordered to be detained, and the Prisoners were committed for further examination.'



ized copper issues of both periods were ultimately brought to a standstill.

Counterfeits, mostly of halfpence, began to appear soon after 1725. At first, current coin was melted down and re-made mainly into low-weight imitations of the 1694-1701

<sup>1</sup> Craig, p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 250.

<sup>3</sup> For details see Snelling (iii), p. 44.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Harris, *An Essay upon Money and Coins*, 1st ed., p. 45, footnote.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 65.

## GEORGE II

205

issues, but a little later forgers seem to have found it more profitable to imitate the current Georgian pieces in low-grade copper.<sup>1</sup> It must be remembered that counterfeiting of copper coin was still treated merely as a misdemeanour incurring only slight penalties, but by about 1740 it had become so widespread that some amendment of the law to enable more severe punishment to be inflicted was clearly necessary. In 1742, therefore, it was enacted<sup>2</sup> that any person convicted of counterfeiting 'brass or copper money, commonly called a halfpenny or a farthing' should be imprisoned, together with his or her accomplices, for two years and find sureties for good behaviour for two further years. It was also provided that informers should be paid £10 for each conviction, and accom-

plices who turned king's evidence and secured two or more convictions should be pardoned. Although not actually stated in the statute, it appears that the making or passing of counterfeits which were not an 'exact similitude' of the official coins, i.e. not close and obviously deliberate imitations, was not usually regarded as a breach of this law. Consequently it needed but one or two successful test cases in the courts to point the way to a new and fairly safe form of counterfeiting, for providing the types and legends of the regal issues were not too closely followed, there was a fair chance that the charge against the forger would fail. This loophole may have been intentional, as Barnard suggests, to protect makers of card counters, &c., many of which bore monetary designs.<sup>3</sup>

It may be reasonably inferred from a letter in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1752<sup>4</sup> that these new counterfeits or 'evasions', as they came to be called, first began to appear in 1751, for it is stated therein that in the beginning of the spring of 1751—'these authors [i.e. forgers] publish'd their works in a new edition: the practice of making counterfeit halfpence was revived with this improvement, that as they were before cast in sand, they were now made in a stamp or press. . . . A common stamp, with two pair of hands, is capable of turning out 50 gross in a day: that several of these engines are thus employ'd is evident from the *variety of impressions* that have appeared among us, *all distinguishable from one another and from the genuine halfpence*,<sup>5</sup> to which the counterfeits are very much inferior.'

The majority of these evasions,<sup>6</sup> as distinct from the ordinary 'facsimile' type of counterfeit, can be said to resemble the official pieces only in so far as they bear a portrait of some sort on one side, and a figure more or less resembling Britannia on the other. Their *obv.* legends are often either corruptions or grossly (and no doubt purposely) misspelt versions of the official ones, e.g. **GLACIOVS DEI PAX; GEORGUIS III RUX; GOERGIUV III PAX** and so forth. Others bear a variety of names, **CORNWALLIS · IND ·** (Pl. 50, v);

<sup>1</sup> Craig, p. 253.

<sup>2</sup> Statute 15 George II, chap. 28.

<sup>3</sup> F. P. Barnard, 'Forgery of English Copper Money in the Eighteenth Century', *NC*, 1926, p. 343. Much of the interesting material in this monograph was gleaned from Colquhoun's *Treatise of the Police of the Metropolis*, 1796 and 1800 editions.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. xxii, p. 500.

<sup>5</sup> The italics are mine.

<sup>6</sup> About 500 of which are briefly described in Atkins, *Tokens of the Eighteenth Century*, pp. 385 et seq. See also 'English Copper Coins and Counterfeits', by L. F. Hammond, *Proc. Croydon Nat. Hist. and Sci. Soc.* 1927-8, vol. x, p. 95, and M. L. Paterson, 'Eighteenth Century Imitations of British Regal Copper Coins', *The Numismatist*, vol. 69 (1956), pp. 387-96, 546-51, and 658-65 (numerous poor illustrations).



## GEORGE III

25 OCTOBER 1760-29 JANUARY 1820

ALTHOUGH no copper coin bearing the portrait of George III appeared until 1770, a small issue totalling £3,810<sup>1</sup>—apparently all farthings—was struck in 1762 and 1763 from dies of George II, dated 1754.<sup>2</sup> The next official issue (and, as it turned out, the last to be struck in copper by the Mint until 1821), appeared between 1770 and 1775. This consisted of halfpennies and farthings to the value of £46,455, struck at the same weight as before, i.e. 23*d.* to the lb.

It is clear from the many contemporary references to the counterfeiting of copper between about 1770 and the end of the century that this scandal had become more extensive than ever, largely because the Act of 1742, under which the offence had been made punishable with two years imprisonment, had never been strictly enforced. On 24 June 1771, however, it was enacted<sup>3</sup> that counterfeiting of copper should be deemed a felony, and that the premises of persons suspected of it could be searched, under warrant, for coining implements, &c., but according to Colquhoun this new law had little effect.

From its very commencement the 1770-5 issue was steadily melted down and remade into light-weight counterfeits, and of this the *Monthly Review* for September 1771<sup>4</sup> complained that 'though there had been a new coinage and twenty tons is already delivered to the public, and yet we see but few of them, owing to their being destroyed by the makers of counterfeit halfpence, who have but little prospect of putting off theirs while there is plenty of good coin'. From a statement in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1789,<sup>5</sup> that counterfeit halfpence also circulated in Scotland 'where the common people would not receive the halfpence of George III', it would appear that the acceptable counterfeits must have been of the evasive kind. Supplies of these appear to have been provided at a fat profit north of the Border by certain tradespeople in the south who advertised goods for which they would accept payment in counterfeit copper at a special rate. Accumulations of these counterfeits were then sold in the north.<sup>6</sup>

In 1787 the Mint reported that only 8 per cent. of the coin then in circulation 'had some tolerable resemblance to the king's coin',<sup>7</sup> and as a remedy they recommended the issue of copper coin struck at 12*d.* to the lb., i.e. about double the previous weight. Specimen halfpennies and farthings for this coinage were made and there is little doubt these

<sup>1</sup> Craig, p. 251.

<sup>2</sup> Snelling (iii), p. 46 (writing in 1766), states that there was coined 'since the accession of his present majesty, in 1762, 10 to. 8 hd. 2 qr., and in 1763, 7 to. 5 hd. 3 qr. in farthings from the dies of his late majesty of 1754, no die of copper money for his present majesty having yet been sunk'.

<sup>3</sup> Under Statute 11 George III, chap. 40.

<sup>4</sup> Vol. xlv. See also Ruding, ii, p. 83.

<sup>5</sup> Vol. lix, p. 464.

<sup>6</sup> For a contemporary (1800) account of this kind of trafficking in counterfeits see Appendix 10 (b).

<sup>7</sup> Craig, p. 253.

p. 214

Peck